

CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Discharge of Volkspolizei Personnel  
in the Russian Zone of Germany

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 1 December 1950, it was learned that 20 employees of the administrative police in Littenborg (N 52/L 37), including five women, were discharged as a result of a 20 percent reduction of administrative police personnel.

2. [redacted] approximately 50 percent of the personnel of the Grenzpolizei-kommandos would either be discharged or detached to other units.

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3. On 7 December, it was learned that about 40 Transportpolizei were discharged at the railroad station of Littenberge (N 53/Y 69). Their notices of discharge stated that they were discharged because of the labor requirements of peaceful reconstruction work. Several of those affected by the discharge were said to have reported to the Seepolizei (Sea Police), which was said to need personnel. The labor office in Littenberge requested the railroad authorities to state vacancies which could be filled by discharged police. According to rumors prevalent in VP circles, the Volkspolizei will be reduced about 30 percent.

4. On 9 December, it was learned that, effective 31 December, 60 persons, including 33 men and 27 women, were discharged in the Kreispolizeiamt in Prenzlau (N 54/Q 04). Safety, transportation, and administrative police were affected by the discharges. Those involved were not released from their VP duties, but were scheduled to be temporarily assigned to enterprises.

5. On 9 December, it was learned that, effective 1 January 1951, 40 percent of the administrative police in Frankfurt/Oder (O 53/V 63) were discharged, allegedly because of the present shortage of labor for industry in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Those affected were automatically given new work assignments by the police authorities, since they signed up for long-term service with the Volkspolizei.

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6. On 16 December, it was learned that 32 police were discharged by the Kreispolizei in the Kreis of Herzberg (N 52/E 75). VP Kreisamtsleiter Oberkommissar Kurt Eschberger and VP Kommissar Joswiak, (fnu), were among those discharged. In several precincts, Hauptwachtmeister and Oberwachtmeister who had been with the Volkspolizei for three or four years were discharged.
7. On 17 December, it was learned that, effective 1 January 1951, personnel over 35 years of age would be discharged from the Volkspolizei. On the basis of their vocational training they would be assigned to industry for the fulfillment of the Five-Year-Plan and at the same time be incorporated into the factory police. A total of 40 percent was said to be discharged. It is planned that the core of the Volkspolizei will, in the future, be made up only of young, well-indoctrinated persons drafted from the FDJ.
8. On 23 December, it was learned that up to 40 percent of the personnel of the Transportpolizei and of all other branches of the police will be discharged prior to February 1951. The discharge which has already been effected in other VP offices, has been delayed with the transport police. Those discharged who are fit for military service will be transferred to the Bereitschaftspolizei. The others will be given good positions with the administration or in the economy. Some of those discharged serve in their former positions in a civilian capacity. For example, several former Grenzpolizei members of the Ring-um-Berlin units were taught to carry out their previous functions as civilian employees of the Amt fuer Warenkontrolle (Bureau of Merchandise Control).
9. In mid-December, it was learned in Potsdam (N 53/Z 63) that, effective 1 January 1951, approximately 50 percent of the employees of the Landespolizei Brandenburg and of the Polizeipraesidium in Potsdam were discharged because of advanced age. Those affected will be assigned to enterprises such as the steel plants in Hennigsdorf and Brandenburg and the industrial combine in Fuerstenberg on the Oder River. However, those of the Volkspolizei who agree to serve in lower ranks such as Oberwachtmeister instead of Oberkommissar or Wachtmeister instead of Kommissar will not be discharged. \*

25X1 \*   Comment. An additional confirmation of extensive discharge of Landespolizei personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany was the New Year's address by VP Chief Generalinspekteur Karl Marx who demanded that the Volkspolizei achieve the same result with fewer personnel. Principally affected by the discharges apparently were not only police considered unreliable as a result of PW internment in Western countries or having close relatives in the Western zones, but also police who were over 35 years of age. Discharges were also reported from NVA units.   25X1

However, those discharged from NVA units were replaced, in part, by younger industrial workers who have not yet received training. As a result, there is a temporary reduction in the number of police on active duty, thus concealing the actual police strength, as well as creating a police reserve in industrial enterprises.

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